

In the fourth place, that his huge book of Politics is the most contemptible of all his works, though it is dedicated to *Emperors, Kings, and Princes*. Lastly, that he says directly the contrary of what Amelot makes him say, "I wish, says Lipsius, (page the ninth of Plantin's edition) Machiavel had conducted his Prince the straight way to the temple of Virtue and Honour." *Utinam Principem suum recta duxisset ad templum virtutis & honoris &c.* Amelot has utterly and purposely suppressed these words. Indeed it was the custom of his age to quote very improperly and injudiciously: but to castrate so essential a passage is something more than pedantry, it is not merely exposing himself to ridicule, but a downright falsification. The great personage whose work I here publish, seldom or never quotes; but I am very much mistaken if he himself will not often be quoted hereafter by such as are friends to reason and justice.

Amelot takes much pains likewise to prove that Machiavel was very far from being an irreligious man. But is not Religion prettily treated upon this occasion? An author recommends the practice of poisoning and assassination; and his translator has the assurance to extol his devotion! But his Readers are not to be imposed upon in this manner. It is trifling to say his author praises the Francis-

miracles. The verses alluded to by Voltaire, which he wrote when he dedicated a Silver Pen to the Lady of Hall, are mentioned in the following manner by Aubert Miræus in his *Life of Lipsius*. "Ipse pennam argenteam (nec potuit pretiosius quidpiam) in templo ante aram Virginis suspendit, & pios hosce versus subscripsit.

"Hanc, Diva, Pennam interpretem mentis meæ,
Per alta spatia quæ volavit ætheris,
Per ima quæ volavit & terræ & maris:
Scientiæ, Prudentiæ, Sapientiæ,
Operata semper, aula quæ *Constantiam*
Describere & vulgare; quæ *Civilia*,
Quæ *Militaria* atque *Polioretica*:
Quæ, Roma, magnitudinem adstruxit tuam:
Variæque luce scripta prisca sæculi
Affecit & perfudit: hanc Pennam tibi
Nunc, Diva, merito consecravi Lipsius:
Nam numine isthæc inchoata sunt tuo,
Et numine isthæc absoluta sunt tuo.
Porro O benignitatis aura perpetim
Hæc spiret; & famæ fugacis in vicem
Quam Penna peperit, tu perenne gaudium
Vitamque, Diva, Lipsio pares tuo."

One of the above-mentioned silly Histories happening to fall into the hands of our King James I. after he had read some part of it, he threw it down in a passion, with this curse, "damnation to him that made it, and to him that believes it." *Jos. Hall, Epist. Decad. i. Epist. v.*